



The HIGH ROAD

"Preserving public confidence in public servants."

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Hawaii State Ethics Commission

May 1995

ASPA RECOGNIZES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

On May 4, 1995, the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) presented Executive Director Daniel Mollway with an award for excellence in public administration. At an awards luncheon held at the Pacific Beach Hotel, ASPA commended the Commission's executive director "for educating government employees and the community about government ethics, for initiating legislation to strengthen ethics and lobbying laws in the State, and for organizing national and state conferences on ethics in government."

ASPA also presented awards to Governor Benjamin Cayetano and Honolulu City Council Member Duke Bainum for their contributions to ethics in public administration. ASPA praised Governor Cayetano "for his interest and initiatives in government ethics described at the beginning of his State of the State address, through his executive appointments, and during the early months of his administration." ASPA commended Council Member Bainum "for long-term promotion of the importance of government ethics through the media, in his campaign literature, and in efforts to expand the work of the City ethics commission."

COMMISSION RELEASES REPORT ON LOBBYING EXPENDITURES FOR JANUARY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 1995

In April, the Commission released a report on lobbying activity that took place during the first lobbying reporting period in 1995 (January 1 through February 28). The report summarized information from expenditures statements filed by lobbyists and their principals with the Commission pursuant to the State Lobbyists Law, chapter 97,

HRS. The Commission's report included information as to which organizations spent the most money on lobbying activities in January and February of 1995. Copies of the report were sent to all state legislators.

The Commission's report and all lobbying expenditures statements are public records and are available for review at the Commission's office.

GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR CONGRATULATE HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

The Commission has named eight high school students as winners of the annual ethics essay contest. The contest was open to all public and private school students in grades nine through twelve. The contest asked students to suggest ethics rules that the Governor should require each cabinet member to follow. The Commission received close to 400 essays from high school students throughout the state. Twenty-five schools on Oahu, Maui, and the Big Island participated in the contest.

The eight contest winners included students from Hawaii Baptist Academy, Iolani School, Kahuku High School, Hilo High School, Roosevelt High School, Sacred Hearts Academy, and Waipahu High School.

In their winning essays, students suggested that cabinet members be required to perform community service; that criminal background checks of appointees be conducted; that cabinet members be prohibited from using their governmental positions for personal gain; that cabinet members' income be regulated and be made public to prevent kickbacks; and that no special privileges be granted to anyone inside or outside of government.

On May 10, Governor Cayetano and Lt. Governor Hirono personally congratulated all of the contest winners and their parents and teachers at an awards luncheon at Washington Place.

ETHICS RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF FREQUENT FLYER CREDITS EARNED ON STATE TRAVEL

State officials and employees who earn frequent flyer credits or mileage points while travelling on state business may not automatically use those credits for personal travel. In 1988, the Commission issued an advisory opinion to the State Comptroller regarding the use of frequent flyer travel benefits accrued on state travel. In that opinion, the Commission held that where at all possible, travel benefits accrued on state travel must be used for state business. The Commission stated:

1. That transferable travel benefits accrued on state travel must be used for subsequent state travel by the employee who accrued the benefits or must be transferred to another state employee for state business;
2. That non-transferable travel benefits accrued on state travel must also, where at all possible, be used for state business; and
3. That if it appears that frequent flyer benefits will not or cannot be used for a future state purpose, state officials and employees may use the benefits for personal travel provided the State has adopted a policy to this effect. Absent such a state policy, travel benefits accrued on state travel cannot be used for personal travel. (Advisory Opinion No. 88-9)

State officials and employees should consult with the Department of Accounting and General Services as to the current state policy governing the use of travel benefits for personal travel.

GIFTS DISCLOSURE REMINDER

If you are a state official or employee who received a gift from someone affected by action that you take in your state capacity, you may be required to file a gifts disclosure statement with the State Ethics Commission. Gifts disclosure statements for the period covering June 1, 1994 to June 1, 1995 must be filed with the Commission by June 30, 1995. State legislators, state employees, and state board and commission members who received gifts during this period must file gifts disclosure statements with the Commission if the following conditions are met:

1. The state official or employee, or a spouse or dependent child of the official or employee, received from one source any gift value in excess of \$200, or any gifts whose combined value is in excess of \$200, AND
2. The source of the gift or gifts has interests that may be affected by official action that the state official or employee takes in his or her state capacity, AND
3. The gift is not exempted by HRS section 84-11.5(d) from the reporting requirements.

Officials and employees who did not receive any reportable gifts during the disclosure period need not file a gifts disclosure statement.

Additional information about the gifts disclosure law and disclosure forms and instructions may be obtained from the Commission.

The High Road is a publication of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission.

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